

## **1999 FATAL VICTIMS UNDER FOUR YEARS OF AGE**

From January through December 1999 there was a total of 39 children under four years of age killed in traffic collisions. In 11 of the deaths, no safety seat was used and/or present; 15 were in improperly used safety seats; and only 7 were in safety seats that were correctly used. In the other 6 fatalities, only adult belts were used [3] or use was unknown [3].

In the collision summaries, this symbol (☆) after the date indicates that the victim was Hispanic or had an Hispanic surname. 59 percent of the fatal victims (23) were in this category.

### **VICTIMS BY YEAR**

### **27360 CITATIONS**

(CHP ONLY)

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>KILLED</u>	<u>INJURED</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1999	39	2,863	10,344
1998	46	3,097	12,775
1997	33	3,036	14,866
1996	35	3,626	15,516
1995	59	3,817	15,359
1994	56	4,127	16,060
1993	48	4,357	18,797
1992	59	4,705	21,578
1991	70	4,793	24,190
1990	64	5,109	21,476
1989	43	5,102	18,420
1988	60	4,855	15,196
1987	66	4,792	15,473
1986	50	4,212	12,620
1985	53	4,050	14,593
1984	57	4,177	11,879
1983	60	4,273	6,315*
1982	46	4,679	
1981	58	4,716	
1980	47	4,652	

\*(1983 CITES STARTED 4/1/83)

## **1999 FATAL VICTIMS UNDER FOUR YEARS OF AGE**

[The following is the format for the information contained in these reports.]

DATE TIME/CITY/COUNTY/. VICTIM. DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT.  
RESTRAINT USE

### **JANUARY**

01☆ 0055/Uninc./Kern. **1-YR-OLD MALE**. DUI Driver swerved to avoid a second vehicle. Action caused the driver to lose control of vehicle which then spun off the roadway and struck a post. Child was riding on mother's lap with the lap/shoulder belt fastened around both of them. Child suffered major head trauma.

**NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE**

02☆ 0720/Red Bluff/Tehama. **1-YR-OLD MALE**. Driver (father) fell asleep and allowed his vehicle to drift off the roadway. He awoke and in attempting to return to the roadway he overcorrected, lost control and the vehicle left the roadway and overturned completely ejecting the child. Child was seated in a safety seat that was attached to the car by the adult safety belt, but the child was not buckled into the seat.

**SAFETY SEAT/IMPROPER USE**

06☆ 1400/Uninc./San Joaquin. **3-YR-OLD MALE**. DUI driver (father) slowed his vehicle to a stop just before railroad tracks. Then with a fast-moving train approaching, he slowly moved his vehicle onto the tracks and stopped again. Train struck the vehicle broadside inflicting fatal injuries to all four occupants including the child, who was seated in an improperly used safety seat.

**SAFETY SEAT/IMPROPER USE/MASSIVE IMPACT**

21☆ 2025/Diamond Bar/Los Angeles. **3-YR-OLD FEMALE**. DUI driver traveling at a high rate of speed struck the rear of a slower moving vehicle. The second vehicle spun and collided with a concrete support column for an overpass. Child was a rear seat passenger in the second vehicle.

**UNKNOWN**

## **FEBRUARY**

- 01 1322/Uninc./Mendocino. **2-YR-OLD FEMALE.** Driver's (mother's) attention was distracted by something to her left. When she again looked to the front, she realized the car was headed toward an embankment. She overcorrected, lost control and her vehicle slid sideways, left the roadway and entered the embankment, striking a drainage ditch at the bottom and overturning. Child was not completely bucked into safety seat and seat was not securely attached with the safety belt. This improper use allowed the seat to slide sideways and the child to move outside the seat where she suffered fatal injuries.  
**SAFETY SEAT/IMPROPER USE/PREVENTABLE**

## **MARCH**

- 20 0032/Uninc./Riverside. **2-YR-OLD FEMALE.** Driver fell asleep and allowed all four wheels to drift off the paved roadway. He then awoke and attempted to re-enter the roadway but his steering movements were too abrupt and he lost control of the vehicle which slid sideways and rolled over. The child and her mother were ejected and suffered fatal injuries.  
**NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE**

## **APRIL**

- 01 1125/Los Angeles/Los Angeles. **1-YR-OLD MALE.** Child was riding on his mother's lap when the driver (his uncle) fell asleep and allowed the vehicle to leave the roadway and strike a utility pole. Child struck the windshield and suffered fatal injuries. A 1-yr-old child riding in the back seat in a properly attached safety seat suffered only a cut lip in the collision.  
**NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE**
- 06☆ 1428/San Francisco/San Francisco. **1-YR-OLD FEMALE.** Driver (mother) was looking toward her front seat passenger and this caused her vehicle to drift out of her lane. When she looked ahead and realized what was happening, she attempted to steer the car back into the lane, but she overcorrected, lost control, crossed the center line and struck another car broadside. This impact spun her vehicle around where it was hit by another vehicle. The child was seated in the center position of the rear seat. After the collision, the seat was partially on its side indicating that the adult belt was not correctly secured to the seat.  
**SAFETY SEAT/IMPROPER USE**

**APRIL** (Continued)

- 10☆ 2149/Porterville/Tulare. **3-YR-OLD FEMALE.** DUI driver struck second vehicle broadside when its driver failed to stop for a stop sign and entered an intersection in front of him. Child in the first vehicle was riding unrestrained on her mother's lap in the right front seat. Both the child and her mother suffered fatal injuries.

**NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE**

- 11 1415/Uninc./San Luis Obispo. **1-YR-OLD MALE.** Driver (Father) was operating his vehicle at an unsafe speed for conditions (rain). While attempting to pass two trucks his vehicle hydroplaned, spun across the center line and was struck by several oncoming vehicles. The impacts ruptured the gas tank, the gasoline was ignited and all four occupants remained within the vehicle as it was consumed by fire. The right rear safety belt was in use at the time of the collision, however due to the extensive fire damage it is unknown whether or not the child was secured in a child safety seat at the time of the collision.

**UNKNOWN**

- 28 1921/Citrus Heights/Sacramento. **2-YR-OLD MALE.** An unlicensed DUI (0.17) driver was transporting two nieces and a nephew when he lost control of his vehicle. The vehicle left the roadway, slid sideways and struck a tree. The child, who was riding on his 10 year old sister's lap, was restrained by the same adult lap/shoulder belt as his sister. Both children suffered fatal injuries.

**NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE**

**MAY**

- 10☆ 1508/Uninc./Placer. **2-YR-OLD MALE.** The front end of the vehicle began vibrating and the driver (father) was unable to maintain control. Vehicle veered to the left, struck the center divider and then overturned into an embankment, landing approximately 25 feet over the side. Child was riding in the rear seat of the mini van.

**SAFETY SEAT/MASSIVE IMPACT**

## JUNE

- 15 1002/Truckee/Nevada. **1-YR-OLD MALE.** Driver (Nanny) was looking at the child in the back seat. While she was looking back, the driver did not observe a stop sign and entered the intersection where a second vehicle struck her vehicle broadside. A locking clip (necessary for this type of vehicle) was attached to the rear of the safety seat and not used. Child was partially ejected from the vehicle and suffered fatal head injuries.

### IMPROPER USE/PREVENTABLE

- 19☆ 1715/Lynwood/Los Angeles. **1-YR-OLD MALE.** Driver (father) entered a controlled intersection as a second vehicle made a left turn in front of him. Driver applied his brakes, but they failed to operate and he struck the car broadside. Child was riding in the rear of the first vehicle in an improperly installed safety seat and suffered fatal injuries.

### IMPROPER USE/PREVENTABLE

- 25☆ 1125/Uninc./Fresno. **3-YR-OLD MALE.** Driver (mother) allowed her vehicle to drift over the center line. She then overcorrected and lost control of her vehicle and it was struck broadside by an oncoming vehicle. Child was riding unrestrained in the right front passenger seat.

### NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE

- 30 1606/Tustin/Orange. **1-YR-OLD MALE.** Driver (father) was stopped in the number one lane waiting to make a left turn, when his vehicle was struck from the rear by a second vehicle. The first vehicle immediately burst into flames prior to the removal of its occupants. Only the driver escaped the flames.

### SAFETY SEAT/FIRE

## JULY

- 24☆ 2049/Bakersfield/Kern. **1-YR-OLD MALE.** Child was riding in the rear seat of a vehicle which was stopped at a red light. A second vehicle struck the first from the rear, pushed it through the intersection and into a post. Child was bucked into a safety seat, but the seat was not completely anchored by the adult belt. The impact allowed the seat to move forward and upward, inflicting head fatal injuries to the child.

### IMPROPER USE/PREVENTABLE

## AUGUST

- 09 1210/Uninc./Los Angeles. **2-YR-OLD MALE.** Driver (mother) experienced difficulty steering through a turn, overcorrected, lost control and the vehicle left the roadway and overturned. Child was unrestrained in the left rear of the vehicle and was ejected during the rollover.

**NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE**

- 16☆ 0730/Uninc./San Bernardino. **1-YR-OLD FEMALE.** Driver (father) fell asleep and awoke as the vehicle left the roadway. He attempted to steer back onto the roadway, but overcorrected and lost control. The child, seated unbuckled on an unsecured safety seat, was ejected as the vehicle rolled over.

**IMPROPER USE/PREVENTABLE**

- 22☆ 1257/Uninc./Fresno. **2-YR-OLD MALE.** Driver (mother) failed to stop at a stop sign and entered the intersection at 55 mph. Her vehicle was struck broadside by a second vehicle. The impact ejected the child completely from the vehicle. Inspection of the safety seat showed that the bracket designed to hold the upper shoulder straps together was missing.

**IMPROPER USE/PREVENTABLE**

- 24☆ 2257/Colton/San Bernardino. **1-YR-OLD MALE.** DUI driver (0.18%) lost control while swerving around a slower vehicle. Driver directed vehicle toward an off ramp that was posted at 25mph as his vehicle was moving at 60-70 mph. Because of the speed and the driver's impaired condition, the vehicle struck the left guardrail, skidded across the off ramp, struck the right guardrail, went over the concrete curb and finally came to rest in the dirt shoulder. The vehicle contained 10 occupants who had traveled to a gathering in two cars but had to return in one. The mother of the child removed the safety seat from the vehicle to permit more people to ride. The child was seated on her lap and suffered fatal head injuries.

**NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE**

## SEPTEMBER

- 04☆ 1934/Montebello/Los Angeles. **1-YR-OLD FEMALE.** Driver (father) had worked a graveyard shift and slept for several hours, but was still tired. He fell asleep while driving and his vehicle drifted off the roadway and into a utility pole. The child was sitting on a child safety seat but not buckled into it, and the seat was not attached to the vehicle by the safety belt.

**IMPROPER USE/PREVENTABLE**

**SEPTEMBER** (Continued)

- 08 0040/Uninc./San Bernardino. **2-YR-OLD FEMALE.** Driver (father) allowed his vehicle to enter the dirt median strip. He then over corrected, and the vehicle returned to the roadway and then skidded and overturned five times before coming to a rest in the center divider. Child was riding in the right front passenger seat and restrained by the adult lap/shoulder belt. She was ejected completely from the vehicle during the last rollover and suffered fatal injuries from contact with the vehicle and the roadway.

**ADULT BELT ONLY/PREVENTABLE**

- 09 1600/San Leandro/Alameda. **1-YR-OLD FEMALE.** Driver (mother) swerved to avoid an obstacle in the roadway. Following this movement, she lost control of her vehicle, which left the roadway and overturned. Child was ejected from the vehicle because she was buckled into a safety seat, but the seat was not attached to the vehicle with the adult belt.

**IMPROPER USE/PREVENTABLE**

- 11☆ 0640/Anderson/Shasta. **2-YR-OLD MALE.** Driver (father) had traveled 625 miles in 10.5 hours on his way home with his family. Driver fell asleep and the vehicle drifted off the roadway and struck a tree while traveling 87 mph. All occupants of the vehicle were killed including the child.

**NO SAFETY SEAT/MASSIVE IMPACT**

- 13 0240/Uninc./Riverside. **2-YR-OLD MALE.** Driver (sister) had been awake for a day and a half attending a wedding celebration. She was driving family members home from the event when she lost control of her vehicle. It left the roadway and overturned. Although actual safety seat use was unknown, the child's injuries were consistent with improper use.

**UNKNOWN**

- 14☆ 2115/Uninc./Fresno. **3-YR-OLD MALE.** DUI driver (had consumed 12 beers since 2000 hrs at a birthday party for his right front passenger -- the child's mother), allowed his vehicle to drift off the roadway. When he attempted to return to the roadway, he overcorrected and the vehicle left the roadway and struck a tree. Child was riding in the center, rear seat position wearing only an adult lap belt. All three occupants suffered fatal injuries.

**ADULT BELT ONLY/PREVENTABLE**

## **SEPTEMBER** (Continued)

- 26 1747/Uninc./Merced. **1-YR-OLD MALE.** Speeding driver (who had been stopped for speeding by the CHP approximately three hours prior to the collision) allowed his vehicle to drift off the roadway. He then overcorrected, lost control and the vehicle skidded and overturned, landing in the path of an oncoming vehicle. There was no safety seat in the vehicle.  
**NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE**

## **OCTOBER**

- 12☆ 1655/Riverside/Riverside. **1-YR-OLD MALE.** For unknown reasons, a van accelerated from a parked location, struck several parked vehicles, ran through a stop sign and intersection and collided with the small foreign vehicle. Child was seated in the left rear seat in a properly attached safety seat. This was the point of massive impact.

### **SAFETY SEAT/MASSIVE IMPACT**

- 17☆ 0758/indio/Riverside. **2-YR-OLD MALE.** Driver (father) proceeded into an intersection with a green light when a second vehicle turned left into the path of the first vehicle. Child was seated in the right rear of the first vehicle and suffered fatal blunt trauma injuries to his head. Although safety seat use is unclear, the injuries are consistent with improper use.

### **IMPROPER USE/PREVENTABLE**

- 31☆ 0835/Escondido/San Diego. **1-YR-OLD MALE.** Driver (mother) was stopped at a traffic signal located at the bottom of an off ramp. Second driver fell asleep as his vehicle was coming down the off ramp. Large second vehicle struck the smaller second vehicle from the rear at 60-65 mph. Child was seated in the left rear seating area in a child safety seat.

### **SAFETY SEAT/MASSIVE IMPACT**

## **NOVEMBER**

- 05☆ 1745/Uninc./Tulare. **2-YR-OLD FEMALE.** Driver (mother) failed to stop for a stop sign and entered an intersection as a second vehicle also entered. Traveling at 50 mph, the second vehicle struck the first vehicle in the right side. Child was sitting at the point of impact.

### **SAFETY SEAT/MASSIVE IMPACT**



## **NOVEMBER** (Continued)

- 06☆ 0430/Uninc./Kings. **2-YR-OLD FEMALE.** Driver fell asleep and his vehicle drifted off the roadway and overturned. Child and her 8-yr-old brother were unrestrained, ejected and killed. Mother was in vehicle, wearing a safety belt, and survived.

### **NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE**

- 11☆ 2355/Los Angeles/Los Angeles. **1-YR-OLD MALE.** DUI driver (0.16%) was operating his vehicle at a high rate of speed when he encountered slower moving traffic and attempted to swerve around it. This sudden movement caused the driver to lose control of the vehicle which then began to slide sideways. As the vehicle was beginning to overturn, it struck a stopped vehicle on the shoulder of the roadway. Driver, and all passengers, including the child, suffered fatal injuries.

### **SAFETY SEAT/MASSIVE IMPACT**

- 16 1410/Uninc./Santa Barbara. **3-YR-OLD FEMALE.** DUI driver (mother - 0.26%) was driving at 73 mph in a 55 mph zone. She allowed her vehicle to drift over the double-yellow centerline. She then overcorrected and lost control of her vehicle which spun and struck an oncoming vehicle. Child was riding in the right front seat in an adult lap/shoulder belt. There was an unused child safety seat in the right rear of the vehicle.

### **NO SAFETY SEAT/PREVENTABLE**

## **DECEMBER**

- 17 1140/Uninc./San Bernardino. **3-YR-OLD MALE.** Driver was operating her vehicle at 60-65 mph when the right rear tire blew out. As she pulled to the right shoulder, the driver applied the brakes. This caused the vehicle to slide sideways and overturn. Child was seated in the left rear of the van with the safety seat held by a lap/shoulder belt. A locking clip should have been used to hold the safety seat in place, but none was present.

### **IMPROPER USE/PREVENTABLE**

- 20 1900/Uninc./Napa. **2-YR-OLD MALE.** Driver (mother) had stayed up late helping a friend move the previous night. After working a full day, she apparently fell asleep and her vehicle drifted off the roadway and struck two trees. The child was riding in a child safety seat in the left rear seat but the seat was not secured by a safety belt.

### **IMPROPER USE/PREVENTABLE**

**DECEMBER** (Continued)

20☆ 2238/Fountain Valley/Orange. **1-YR-OLD MALE.** Driver entered an intersection against the light and his vehicle was struck broadside. Impact completely ejected child who had been seated unbuckled on a safety seat.

**IMPROPER USE/PREVENTABLE**

28 2310/Uninc./Santa Barbara. **1-YR-OLD MALE.** Driver (father) had turned briefly to speak with his wife in the front passenger seat. When he directed his attention to the roadway, a cow was in the road directly ahead of him. The driver did not have time to react before the cow was struck. The cow rolled up the hood and crashed hooves first through the windshield. One of the cow's hooves slid along the ceiling of the vehicle (between the front bucket seats) and came down on the head of the child that was seated in his correctly attached child safety seat in the middle of the rear seat.

**SAFETY SEAT/UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES**